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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of the Director

9 April 1973

The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Intelligence)
Room 3E 282
The Pentagon

Dear Al:

This responds to your letter of February 20, 1973 concerning COINS and forwarding a copy of a study report undertaken in behalf of IRAC, and also to your letter of March 29, 1973. The report appears to be comprehensive, workmanlike and objective. I understand there was some dissent on the subject of interactive capabilities for the system.

Subject to certain assurances, the DCI is prepared to accept the recommendations of the report. In particular,



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3. The COINS project and funding be continued with the expectation that:

a. The present system be upgraded to the TK level with a target date of May 1, 1973. I am sending a separate letter to Agency Directors informing them of this action.

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b. COINS be purged of unused files and these files replaced by the files of interest to the community, as identified in the study.

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c. COINS management reporting be strengthened to allow evaluation of usage, timeliness, and effectiveness.

d. The COINS PMD submit a detailed plan for an upgraded system which will address the weaknesses previously identified in a cost-effective manner.

25X1 Your proposed terms of reference for a working group are satisfactory. [redacted] will be my representative at the April 10 meeting.

If there are any questions on this I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Sincerely



Lew Allen, Jr.
Major General, USAF

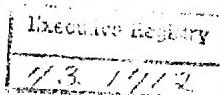
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INTELLIGENCE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



29 MAR 1973

The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Jim:

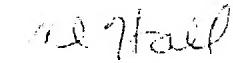
As you will recall from my correspondence of 20 February, we have recently completed a review of the usefulness of the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS). The committee tasked with the review concluded that COINS serves a community need, but was notably weak in several areas. The review group offered recommendations intended to alleviate these deficiencies, and enhance the future effectiveness of automated information exchange.

The review was enlightening in that it indicated a high interest in exchange of intelligence information throughout the user community, although roughly 95% of COINS-attributable expenditures for FY 73 were made by Defense Department agencies. We are prepared to proceed with an approach to improving the system and at the same time controlling its costs, but I particularly feel your support is necessary to maintain and enhance cooperative interchange between the Defense agencies and those under your control.

Since the review, some progress has been made against certain of the COINS weaknesses. In order to proceed with the problem of file selection, I would like to convene a working group comprised of members from each of the major COINS participating agencies, (including NPIC), under the chairmanship of my representative. Participation from your staff would be appreciated. The representatives should be capable of examining the files which the previous review pinpointed as being of high community interest, and establish the procedures necessary to assure their timely inclusion in COINS.

I would like the working group to have its organizational meeting on 10 April. I have enclosed a copy of the General Terms of Reference for their review.

Sincerely,



Albert C. Hall

Attachment
a/s

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